

Boston and Albany Railroad Station
1897 Washington Street
Newton (Woodland)
Middlesex County
Massachusetts

HABS No. MASS-667

HABS
MASS
1-NEWT
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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. MASS-667

BOSTON AND ALBANY RAILROAD STATION

HABS

MASS

9-NEWT

Street Address: 1897 Washington Street, Newton (Woodland), Middlesex County, Massachusetts 13-

Present Owner and Occupant: Woodland Golf Club, Newton, Massachusetts

Present Use: Storage building

Brief Statement of Significance: This is one of several railroad stations designed by H. H. Richardson for the Boston and Albany Railroad. It is smaller than, and rather different from most of the others.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners:
Boston and Albany Railroad; Woodland Golf Club.
2. Date of erection: Commissioned in October 1884.
3. Architect: Henry Hobson Richardson, or his office staff. Henry Russell Hitchcock, Jr., in The Architecture of H. H. Richardson and His Times, attributes this building to Richardson's staff rather than to him personally. Hitchcock considers this station of low quality compared with earlier ones by Richardson for the same client, such as the one at Auburndale.
4. Notes on alterations and additions: In recent years this building has been altered from a railroad station to a storage depot for the Golf Club which owns it. This station is on a section of railroad that was taken over in 1958 by the Boston Metropolitan Transit Authority and converted to rapid transit service. The building, however, was not used for the transit line and remains the property of the Woodland Golf Club.
5. References:
 - a. Henry Russell Hitchcock, Jr., The Architecture of H. H. Richardson and His Times (New York: The Museum of Modern Art, 1936), pages 262-263.
 - b. "Converting an Old Railroad Pays," Engineering News-Record, November 5, 1959, pages 30-34.

- B. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated: Boston and Albany Railroad Archives, South Station, Boston, Massachusetts.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This suburban station is a small, one-story building with the heavy masonry and dominant roof characteristic of Richardson's work. It is smaller than most of the stations Richardson designed for the Boston and Albany Railroad, and different from them in some details.
2. Condition of fabric: Good;

B. Technical Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The building is one story high, rectangular, about 20 feet by 35 feet, with a porte-cochere forming a short wing on the northwest side. On the southeast side, toward the platform and tracks, the roof projects over a deep, central bay window and side porches. The roof is supported at the two porch corners on monolithic piers.
2. Foundations: Smooth, dressed stone.
3. Wall construction: Random coursed ashlar - squared, gray granite.
4. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Door openings are finished with ashlar of a red hue. Doors have six wide panels arranged one above the other.
 - b. Windows: Window openings are also finished with red ashlar. The bay window on the southeast, platform front is composed of dressed, ashlar masonry. Windows have been removed and the openings boarded up.
5. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Hip (steep) roof covered with slate, with a secondary hip roof at right angles covering the porte-cochere.
 - b. Eaves: Deep projecting eave around all sides.
6. Chimney: One ashlar chimney projects through northeast face of the hip roof.

C. Technical Description of Interiors:

1. Floor plans: Single large waiting room with lavatories and storage room along the entire northeast end of building. The ticket office is in the projecting bay on the southwest side.

2. Flooring: Narrow boards.
3. Wall and ceiling finish: Narrow matched boarding, unmolded, running vertically on the walls and horizontally above, following the pitch of the hip roof.
4. Doorways and doors: Four-panel doors with sunk panels, set in simple molded frames.
5. Trim: Molded wood trim.
6. Lighting: Modern electric fixtures.

D. Site:

1. General setting: The building is situated between the railroad and a driveway on the extensive open grounds of the Woodland Golf Club.
2. Landscaping: Shrubs, lawn.

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